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Trends in national institutional arrangements in geospatial information management

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Note by the Secretariat

The Secretariat has the honour to bring to the attention of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management its report on trends in national institutional arrangements governing geospatial information management, which is available in the language of submission only from the website of the Committee of Experts (http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html). The Committee of Experts is invited to take note of the report, encourage Member States to complete the important baseline survey and express its views on the way forward in addressing and identifying best practices and options for national institutional arrangements in geospatial information management.

Summary of the report

The need to examine institutional arrangements in geospatial information management, and thereby provide Governments with options on how best to create national geospatial entities, arose in earlier discussions held on the issue within the global community. The need to act on the issue was substantiated by findings reflected in earlier documents, such as on the inventory of issues (E/C.20/2012/5), wherein the issue was identified as one of the three most important cross-cutting matters to be addressed, and on future trends in geospatial information management (E/C.20/2012/3). Both documents were considered by the Committee of Experts at its second session, held in August 2012.

* E/C.20/2013/1.

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In its report, the Secretariat puts into context the genesis of the issue, explains why it is important to examine trends in national institutional arrangements and provides supporting evidence based on a recent survey being conducted by the Committee of Experts on the status of national geospatial information management systems in Member States. Although the survey has not yet been completed, an examination of the findings from the more than 50 responses received to date provides initial indicators on the status of the issue and the direction for further work to be undertaken by the Committee of Experts.